# SEATTLE UNIVERSITY.

"MARY AND I WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE DEAN SINCE YOU'RE LOOKING SO NERVOUS."

*IF I HAVE TO SEE LUKEN'S ARM AROUND MARY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, ONE OF US IS GOING TO DIE. AND IT WON'T BE ME!*

*ARGH--I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. THEY SHOULD JUST GET A ROOM!*

THAT'S ONE WAY TO GET THEM TO TAKE THEIR HANDS OFF OF EACH OTHER!

# FIREBRAND

## THE INITIATION OF NATALI PRESANO

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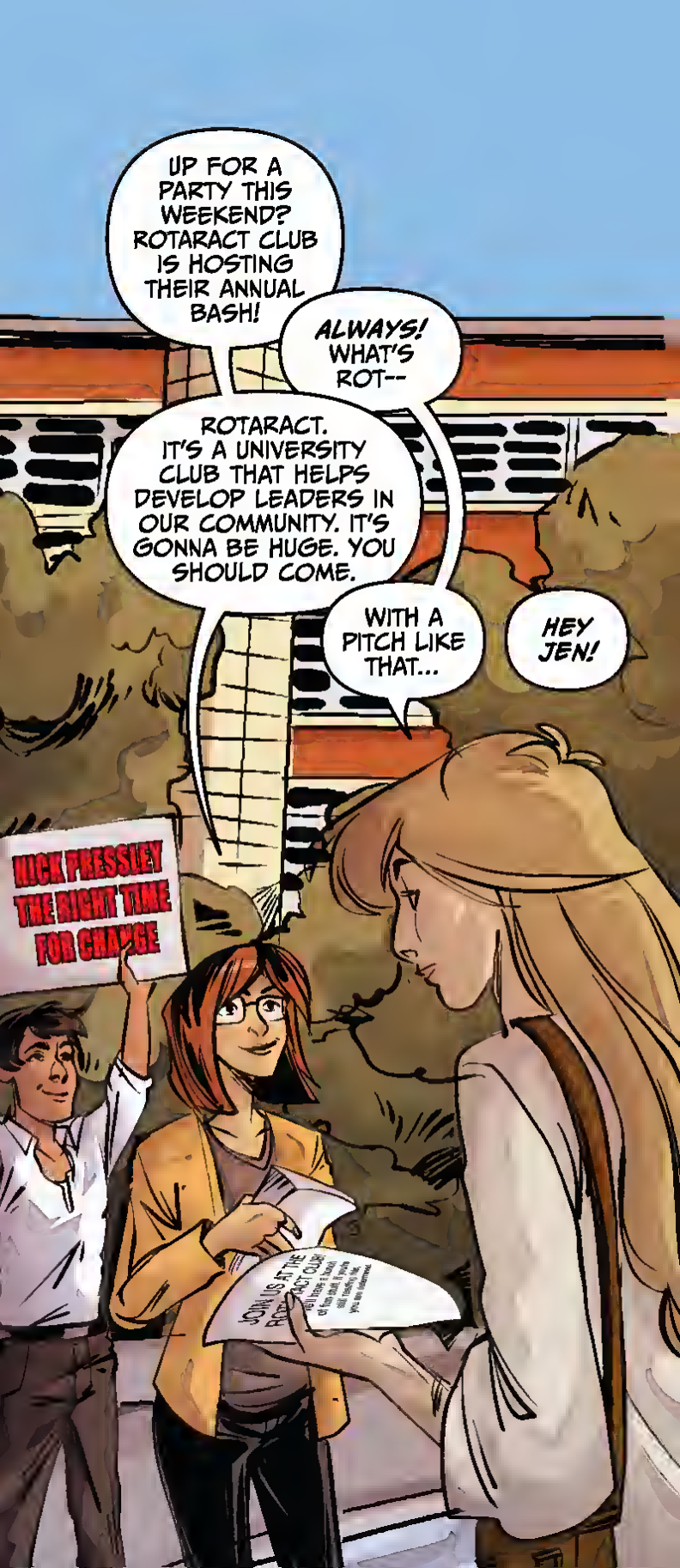

UP FOR A PARTY THIS WEEKEND? ROTARACT CLUB IS HOSTING THEIR ANNUAL BASH!
ALWAYS! WHAT'S ROT--
ROTARACT. IT'S A UNIVERSITY CLUB THAT HELPS DEVELOP LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT'S GONNA BE HUGE. YOU SHOULD COME.
WITH A PITCH LIKE THAT...
HEY JEN!
NICK PRESSLEY THE RIGHT TIME FOR CHANGE

JEN, THIS IS NATALI PRESANO. SHE'S NEW THIS TERM.
NATALI, JEN AND I ARE BOTH IN THE ROTARACT CLUB. SINCE YOU'RE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, YOU CAN SIGN UP. LOOKS GREAT ON YOUR RESUME.

THIS IS...SHE'S GONE. OH WELL...
WHO'S GONE?
DON'T KNOW. SHE DIDN'T SAY.

WE'VE GOTTA BOLT. PROFESSOR READE HATES FOR STUDENTS TO BE LATE. I NEED TO STAY ON HIS GOOD SIDE. HE'S HELPING ME GET AN INTERNSHIP WITH A CONGRESSMAN THIS TERM.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE TORTURE.
A MUST TO GET YOUR DIPLOMA.

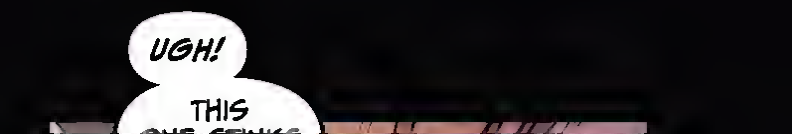
THE THOUGHT OF BEING AROUND THE

RAH-RAH OF A CAMPAIGN IS ENOUGH TO GIVE ME HIVES. IN FACT, I CAN ALREADY FEEL A RASH RUNNING UP MY ARMS.

BY THE WAY, I WAS TALKING TO LUKEN, AND WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN FOR US ALL TO GO OUT. SHOW YOU SOME OF THE COOL PLACES IN SEATTLE.
THAT WOULD BE GREAT, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN GO OUT TONIGHT. MY AUNT NEEDED ME TO HELP HER WITH SOMETHING.
LUKEN SAID. HE THOUGHT SATURDAY WOULD WORK.
DID HE NOW?

# THE UNDERGROUND CITY.

DUMP THESE AT LEAST TWENTY MILES OUTSIDE THE CITY. BUT FIRST, DROP ERLEA ON TOP OF THE PILE. LET HER WAKE UP WITH THE MESS SHE'S MADE.



ONE STINKS ALREADY.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GLUE HIS EYES OPEN. CAN'T HAVE HIM LOOKING LIKE HE'S ASLEEP.
YOU IMPS REALLY ARE CLEVER.
GOODBYE *ERLEA*. I WISH I COULD SAY IT'S BEEN NICE KNOWING YOU...
HA HAHA HA!

PRESANO HOMESTEAD.

IS SELENA HOME? I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU ALONE LIKE THIS.
NOT SURE, BUT I'M FINE. REALLY. BESIDES, MY ROOMIES ARE RIGHT BEHIND US.

NICE TO SEE YOU TWO AGAIN.
THANKS. HOW WAS THE SERVICE FOR FELICITY?
PREN, YOU OKAY?
WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP ASKING ME THAT?

MAYBE I BETTER GO TALK TO HER.
NO. I GOT IT.

WHY IS THERE NEVER ANYTHING TO EAT IN THIS DAMN HOUSE?

YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS A GIRL WHO CRIES MUCH.

AND HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT? YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT ME. YOU HAVEN'T ASKED ME A SINGLE QUESTION ABOUT ME SINCE YOU GOT HERE.

I KNOW. I SUCK AT THE FRIEND THING. ALWAYS HAVE. DON'T REALLY LIKE ANYONE ASKING ME ANYTHING ABOUT ME, SO I DON'T ASK.

I SUSPECT YOU AND I ARE A LOT ALIKE IN THAT WAY.

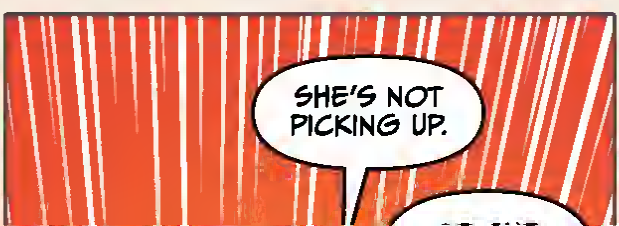
THIS SUCKS! WHEN MY SUPPOSED FRIENDS FOUND OUT I WAS LIVING ON THE STREETS, THAT MY PARENTS HAD THROWN ME OUT FOR BEING A FREAK, THEY ALL BAILED. BUT NOT FELICITY.
SHE WAS THE ONLY REAL FRIEND I HAD.
LIVING ON THE STREETS? LIKE LUKEN?

SELENA TOOK LUKEN IN WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.

THANKS.
SELENA ASKED ME TO LIVE WITH HER LAST YEAR. I WAS PRETTY MESSED UP. PRACTICALLY STARVING.
ALL THAT TIME ALONE--IF IT WASN'T FOR FELICITY, I DON'T THINK I WOULD'VE MADE IT. SHE BOUGHT MY LUNCH EVERY SINGLE DAY UNTIL SELENA TOOK ME IN.
OFFICER JAMES SAID TO CALL IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, PREN. I'M GOING TO HEAD UPSTAIRS AND LET YOU TWO TALK.
THANKS.

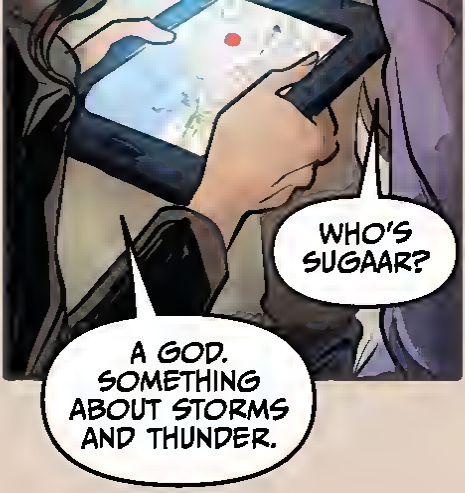
HOW DID YOU MEET SELENA?
ONE OF MY EX-FRIENDS. BITCH NAMED GINNY PACE. SHE GOT ME ON VIDEO LIVING IN THE BASEMENT OF THE SCHOOL.
WHAT SHE ALSO CAUGHT WAS A BOOK LEVITATING IN FRONT OF ME. MY HANDS WERE UNDER IT BUT NOT TOUCHING IT.
IT WENT VIRAL. COPS SAW IT. BUT SO DID YOUR AUNT. SELENA MADE SURE TO GET THERE FIRST AND HELP "CLEAR" EVERY-THING UP.
SPEAKING OF SELENA. WHERE IS SHE?
SELENA? YOU HERE? STRANGE. SHE SAID TO BE HOME BY 3.
LUKEN?

WHAT?
WHERE'S SELENA?
I DON'T KNOW. HAVE YOU TRIED TO CALL HER?

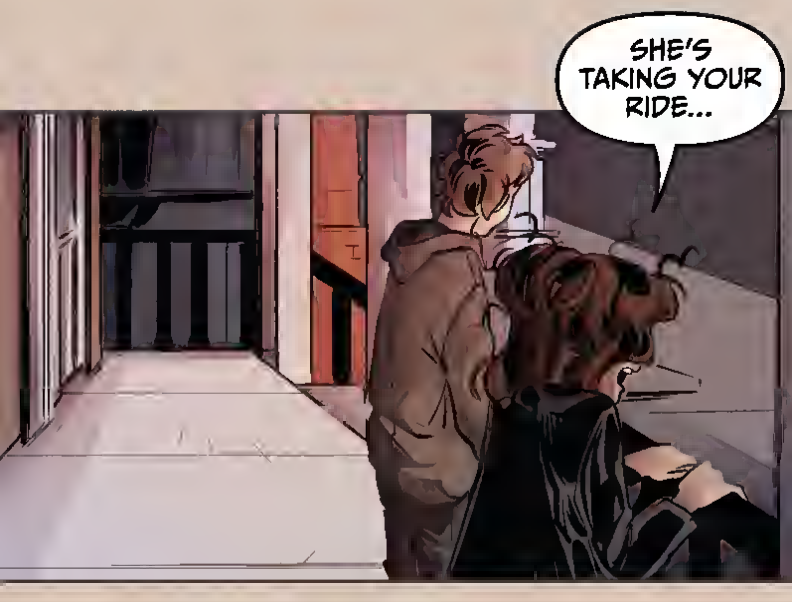

SHE'S NOT PICKING UP.

OR SHE CAN'T. KAKA ZAHARRA!
DON'T PANIC. LET ME GET HER TABLET AND I'LL TRACK HER PHONE. THAT'LL BE THE FASTEST WAY TO LOCATE HER.

CAPITOL HILL. LOOKS LIKE SUGAAR'S.


WHO'S SUGAAR?
A GOD. SOMETHING ABOUT STORMS AND THUNDER.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHERE DO YOU THINK? SELENA IS NEVER LATE!

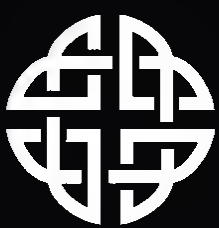

SHE'S TAKING YOUR RIDE...

# THE UNDERGROUND CITY.

WHERE IS ERLEA?
YOU *DARE* THREATEN ME?
TELL ME WHERE SHE IS OR I'LL DO MORE THAN THREATEN.
SHE WAS TAKEN OUT WITH THE REST OF THE TRASH. NOW GET OUT AND DON'T COME BACK.

KRRRAAAKKK
AHHH!
:GASP:
A-A-MARANDE?
SHE'S NO

LONGER YOUR CONCERN.



LEGENDARY